



**The Holy Great Martyr Eustathius and Theopiste, His Spouse,
and Their Two Sons Agapius and Theopistus
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on September 20.**

The holy Martyr Eustathius before his baptism was an illustrious Roman general named Placidus in the days of Emperor Trajan. While hunting in the country one day, he was converted to the Faith of Christ through the apparition of an uncommonly majestic stag, between whose antlers he saw the Cross of Christ, and through which the Lord spoke to him with a human voice. Upon returning home, he learned that his wife Tatiana had also had a vision in which she was instructed to be a Christian. They sought out the Bishop of the Christians and were baptized, Placidus receiving the name Eustathius, and Tatiana the name Theopiste; their two sons were baptized Agapius and Theopistus. The family was then subjected to such trials as Job endured. Their servants died, all their goods were stolen, and on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem they were scattered abroad, each not knowing if the others were still alive. By the providence of God, they were reunited again after many years, and returned to Rome in glory. Nevertheless, when they refused to sacrifice to idols—a public sacrifice from which no Roman general could be absent—the Emperor Hadrian, who had succeeded Trajan, had them put into a large bronze device in the shape of a bull, which was heated with fire until they died. When their holy bodies were removed, they were found to be without harm. They suffered martyrdom about the year 126.

Wine and oil allowed.

Dismissal Hymn of the Feast

SAVE, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thy preserve Thy Commonwealth.

*Dismissal Hymn of the Saints. Fourth Tone
Be quick to anticipate*

THY martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

Kontakion of the Feast

THOU Who wast raised up on the Cross of Thine own will, O Christ our God, do Thou bestow Thy compassions upon this, Thy new commonwealth named by Thee. Gladden with Thy sovereign might our most Orthodox Hierarchs, and vouchsafe them victory over every false teaching; and as Thy help in war may they possess the weapon of peace, the trophy invincible.

*Kontakion of the Saints. Second Tone
Thou soughtest the heights*

O BLEST one, since thou didst emulate Christ's sufferings and thou drankest His cup with eagerness, thou didst become a partaker and joint-heir of His glory, O wise Eustatius; and since He is God of all things, He gave thee divine power from Heaven's heights.

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